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### Claims

10        1. A holding means for holding two parts together and  
more especially for fixing a workpiece palette on a  
workpiece table, comprising a bolster able to be secured  
to the first part, such bolster possessing a projecting  
shape element, a cooperating part adapted to be secured to  
the second part, such cooperating part possessing a recess  
15        to receive the shape element, and a sliding element  
running in the projecting shape element, such sliding  
element possessing at least one peripheral recess into  
which at least one clamping element, which is able to be  
moved in a through hole in the shape element, fits in the  
20        non-clamped state, sliding of the sliding element causing  
the clamping element to be thrust outward into a clamping  
position thereof, in which it interlocks with the  
cooperating part in the recess thereof, wherein the  
clamping element possesses a central guide region for  
25        linearly guiding in the through hole, same being provided  
with an annular groove to receive a sealing ring,  
hemispherical terminal regions being formed on either side  
of the guide region.

30        2. The holding means as set forth in claim 1, wherein  
one of the terminal regions has a flat which preferably in  
the non-clamping state is essentially aligned with the  
outer face of the shape element.

35        3. The holding means as set forth in claim 1, wherein

at least three clamping elements are arranged distributed about the periphery.

4. A holding means for holding two parts together and more especially for fixing a workpiece palette on a workpiece table, comprising a bolster able to be secured to the first part, such bolster possessing a projecting shape element, a cooperating part adapted to be secured to the second part, such cooperating part possessing a recess to receive the shape element, and a sliding element running in the projecting shape element, such sliding element possessing at least one peripheral recess into which at least one clamping element, which is able to be moved in a through hole in the shape element, fits in the non-clamped state, sliding of the sliding element causing the clamping element to be thrust outward into a clamping position thereof, in which it interlocks with the cooperating part in the recess thereof, more particularly as set forth in claim 1, wherein the sliding element is connected integrally or permanently with a piston able to be acted upon by pressure on either side thereof.

5. The holding means as set forth in claim 4, wherein the sliding element in the non-clamped, projecting position projects from the shape element and wherein the terminal face of the projecting region is in the form of a bolster face for a mating face in the recess in the cooperating part.

6. The holding means as set forth in claim 5, wherein the at least one peripheral recess in the sliding element possesses an oblique actuating face for thrusting out the clamping element into the clamping position during lowering movement of the sliding element carrying the cooperating part.

7. The holding means as set forth in claim 1, wherein the frustoconical shape element constituting a preliminary centering arrangement with the bell-like recess in the cooperating part preferably possesses a centering annular bolster face at its foot region or a region adjacent to it, for a corresponding mating face of the cooperating part.

8. A holding means for holding two parts together and more especially for fixing a workpiece palette on a workpiece table, comprising a bolster able to be secured to the first part, such bolster possessing a projecting shape element, a cooperating part adapted to be secured to the second part, such cooperating part possessing a recess to receive the shape element, and a sliding element running in the projecting shape element, such sliding element possessing at least one peripheral recess into which at least one clamping element, which is able to be moved in a through hole in the shape element, fits in the non-clamped state, sliding of the sliding element causing the clamping element to be thrust outward into a clamping position thereof, in which it interlocks with the cooperating part in the recess thereof, more particularly as set forth in claim 1, wherein the shape element and/or the sliding element comprise at least one fluid pressure duct, whose at least one blow-off opening is directed toward the recess in the cooperating part.

9. The holding means as set forth in claim 8, wherein the recess in the cooperating part possesses a bell-like inner configuration adapted to redirect the air current and also to clean the shape element.

10. The holding means as set forth in claim 8,

comprising a volumetric flow measuring means for checking positions, such means being associated with the pressure duct, more particularly prior to reaching the clamping position and/or in the such position.